National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT), Tribal Liberation Organisation (TLO) etc., have severely hit the operations of ONGC Ltd. in their Tripura Project.

(c) With a view to boost the exploration for oil and gas in Tripura, a Block measuring 3,000 Sq. Kms. (AA-ON-3) has been awarded to a private/multinational Company. Also, ONGC Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNOCAL of USA to jointly explore and exploit the PEL areas of ONGC.

ONGC

138. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has deducted FPF amounts from employees w.e.f. November 16,1995 onwards;

(b) if so, the reasons for such deduction;

(c) whether ONGC can keep FPF amount into their own accounts w.e.f. November 16, 1995 onwards;

(d) if not, the action taken by Government against ONGC for violation of order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC Ltd. has applied to EPF authorities for exemption from the purview of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995, under Clause 39 of the Scheme.

(c) and (d). No FPF amount has been kept by ONGC Ltd. into its own accounts.

Power Projects

139. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power projects recommended by the State Government of Kerala are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the number of projects from Kerala cleared by the Union Government during the last 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c). Puyankutty Hydro Electric Project 2x120 MW), recommended by the Government of Kerala, has not been accorded forest clearance by the Ministry of Environment & Forests so far.

(d) Two power projects namely DG sets at Brahampuram (5x20 MW) and DG Sets at Kozikode (6x20 MW) have been given investment approval during the last three years.

LPG Connections

140. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is illegal sale of MP's LPG quota coupons in the open market for a price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken by the Government to stop such illegal sale trade of gas connections from MPs quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R BAALU): (a) Government is not aware of any illegal sale of MP's LPG quota coupons.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Kothagudem Thermal Power Project

141. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for release of funds for the works on stage V of Kothagundem thermal power station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) have requested Power Finance Corporation (PFC) for a term loan assistance of Rs. 500 crores for completion of Stage V (2x250 MW) Units 9 and 10 of Kothagudem Thermal Power Station.

(c) PFC have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 130 crores in August, 1996 to APSEB towards completion of balance works in respect of Unit 9, programmed to be synchronised by March, 1997.

Dwelling Unit to Homeless

142. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) while addressing a function in New Delhi on the World Habitat Day to the effect that the right to own a descent dwelling should be made a fundamental right;